

DRAFT
20 March 1970

Lt. Gen. Donald Bennett, USA
Director
Defense Intelligence Agency
Room 3E258 - Pentagon

Not Sent

Dear Donald:

I know you share my concern for the efficient management and operation of the National Photographic Interpretation Center, particularly with the nature and extent of the problems facing us which imagery analysis can assist in solving.

In this regard, I understand that [] will not be available for assignment as the Center's Deputy Director, and that a [] [] USAF is under consideration for that assignment.

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Instead of introducing a new person to this key billet at this time, I should like to suggest that the present Deputy Director -- [] be retained in that position. I feel that we cannot afford to lose the benefits of [] experience at this time when the Center is faced with a number of changes resulting from the introduction of new systems.

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I assure you that [] has our full confidence and support, and I do hope that you will agree to his continuance.

Sincerely,

Richard Helms

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NIMA/DOD

CONFIDENTIAL

DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

23 MAR 1970

G-0297/XX

Mr. Arthur C. Lundahl
Director
National Photographic Interpretation Center
Washington, D. C. 20024

Dear Mr. Lundahl:

I was most appreciative of the opportunity to visit with you and members of your staff to understand first-hand the nature and magnitude of the significant contribution that the National Photographic Interpretation Center has made to national security. We consider our ties with NPIC to be close and productive and are most appreciative of the extensive and timely support that has been rendered by the Center over the past several years.

As you know, I have decided to retain [redacted] within the Special Activities Office as the Chief so as to derive maximum benefit from his capability in the critical areas of reconnaissance and photo interpretation. In this capacity, [redacted] will be directly responsible to me for DOD participation in NPIC and for related matters of mutual DOD/NPIC interest in order to insure a continuing and beneficial relationship between our organizations.

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I am nominating [redacted] as a replacement for [redacted]. He will be available for duty in October 1970. As you can see by a copy of his record attached, [redacted] is a senior Air Force officer with extensive experience in the intelligence and targeting areas. His command experience, coupled with the nature and diversity of his assignments within the operations and intelligence areas, should provide the basis for an exceptional contribution to Center operations.

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Sincerely,

[redacted signature box]

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D. V. BENNETT
Lieutenant General, USA
Director

1 Enclosure
AF Form 11 on

[redacted box]

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REGRADING; DOD DIR 5200.10
DOES NOT APPLY

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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NPIC/D-275/69

20 OCT 1969

Lt. Gen. Donald V. Bennett, USA
Director, Defense Intelligence Agency
Room 3E258, Pentagon

Dear General Bennett:

We at NPIC hope that you will feel free--at whatever time may be convenient--to visit the Center for a first-hand look at our operations. We consider our ties with your Agency to be close and productive and we value the day-to-day contributions made to the Center's work by the many DIA officers and civilians assigned here.

As you know, the reconnaissance field--perhaps more than most--advances speedily on the wings of technology. We in the business of exploiting imagery over the years have been faced with a great many complex problems. We have had to develop families of special equipment to aid the photo-interpreter as he deals with increasing quantities of imagery of increasing quality. We have had always to plan new developments, procedures and organization to deal with oncoming systems. More recently, we all have had to learn new ways to do the growing amount of work without expansion of resources. Challenges like these extend into the future as far as we can see. It will take special talents to meet the challenge.

25X1 As you know, it has been the practice to assign a DIA official to serve as Deputy Director of NPIC. The incumbent--a most gifted officer--is [redacted] [redacted] tour as Deputy here has been extended twice and regrettably will end in mid-1970.

25X1 Though it may be a bit premature and presumptuous of me, I would like to request your consideration of [redacted] of DIA as [redacted] successor. I can think of few others with the special skills and experience of [redacted] who can help us meet today's and tomorrow's challenges. He is well-known and admired throughout the Center; he enjoys the trust and respect of key officials in DIA and CIA; he is fully familiar with the COMIREX institution and the National Tasking Plan for imagery exploitation.

25X1 I fully believe [redacted] assignment here as Deputy Director would be fully in the interests not only of NPIC and DIA but of the intelligence community as well.

Sincerely,

[redacted]
Arthur C. Lundahl
Director
National Photographic Interpretation Center